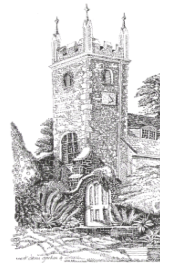




West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Telephone: 01243 811247 Headteacher: Mr C Williams



We do our best in all we do, with God's love.
'Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another.'
John 13



Beech Class - Autumn 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Beech Class 2024-2025! We hope you have all had a wonderful summer holiday time. We've already got some fantastic learning lined up for the year ahead.

Our topic for the first half term is *Tools for Change*. During this time we will be focusing our history on the *Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age*. This links in nicely with our science work which is all about rocks and understanding how different types of rocks are formed. We will also be using this topic to explore how to use basic tools in art to create some wonderful work inspired by Wassily Kandinsky. We have already started to enjoy *Stig of the Dump* in our reading for pleasure sessions and will soon begin reading *24 Hours in the Stone Age* as part of our comprehension work. In French, we are starting the year by understanding some basic French phonics before moving on to learning about musical instruments and how to use the verb "jouer" (to play). Excitingly, this term, all children in Key Stage 2 will be learning the recorder with West Sussex Music.

In the second half term our topic is *Bending and Meandering*. During this unit, our geography work will focus on the journey a river takes. In design and technology we will be learning how to fold paper effectively to create some wonderful pop-up books. As part of our science, we will be learning how sound travels and how it is created. We will be learning about the seasons in French and using this to help us construct a short sentence using a conjunction.

We are also currently working on some very exciting enrichment activities including a class trip. More about this soon!



Reading

Reading is the backbone of our learning and good reading skills support the children in nearly every other aspect of their work. For this reason, we are keen to ensure the children read both in school and at home as regularly as possible. We expect the children to have both their reading book and their homework diary in school every day. We have asked the children to read at home a minimum of 3 times a week, for which they will be rewarded with house points. We ask that an adult signs the purple homework diary each time your child has read. Homework diaries will be checked for this on a Wednesday.

At school, the children will have the opportunity to use the library on a Friday.

In class, all children will be involved in whole class guided reading. Those children who require extra support with their decoding will have further reading sessions with an adult each week.

Targets / Next steps



Your children will be set targets over the coming weeks, based upon our teacher judgements as well as the assessments they are completing currently. They will be given a target for maths and literacy. We shall look forward to sharing these with you at our parents' evening in October.



Curriculum spellings

Each week, the children will take part in a whole class spelling lesson where we will discuss a new spelling pattern or set of spellings. The children will then be set a task on Emile to further reinforce this learning and give them the opportunity to practise these spellings again at home. We will also give the children a list of the week's spellings in the front of the children's purple homework diaries.

Child specific spelling support

Emile is a very clever app because the more your child plays, the more the app learns about your child's spelling ability. This means that any spelling games your child plays, beyond the weekly spelling task set, will be tailored to your child's ability. The app will aim to reinforce any spellings gaps in your child's learning and then challenge them to improve at the appropriate level. More detail on using Emile is provided in an accompanying letter, attached.



Maths / Multiplication Tables

Times table practice is hugely important when it comes to success in maths. We have found Time Table Rockstars to be an excellent app to encourage the children to practise. Each child has their login details in the front of their purple homework diary. For ease, the login details for TT Rockstars and Emile are the same. Children will have a weekly session to practise on TT Rockstars at school, but we do encourage them to play at home on a weekly basis as well. Achievements on TTRS will be celebrated in our Acorn Assemblies on a Friday morning and their achievement celebrated on the TTRS display in the hall.



Homework

In order to best prepare the children for Chestnut class and their continued school journey, each week, we will set the children a short piece of either maths or English homework. This will be set on a Wednesday and will be due for the following Wednesday. Most weeks, homework will be set as a task on Emile. The children will receive house points for successfully completing their homework on time. We do not intend for homework to be overly arduous for the children and it shouldn't be taking more than 30 minutes. If your child is finding their homework challenging for whatever reason, please don't hesitate to let us know so we can support them with this.



Google Classroom

Beech Class will have its own Google Classroom. Setting up our Google Classroom will form part of our computing lessons over the next few weeks. The children will be logging in and getting to grips with navigating and using Google Classroom in class. Once everything is established, we will be inviting children to log in at home too. Look out for details in the purple diaries!



Forest School

These sessions will take place on **Wednesday afternoons** in our school grounds. Year 3 will be taking part for the first half term and Year 4 will take over after half term up until Christmas. See information below regarding clothing requirements.

- **Waterproof trousers:** it is important that children have these for **all** Forest School sessions.
- **Waterproof coat**
- **Long trousers:** jogging bottoms are ideal and will help to keep your child warm and protect from scratches, stings and sunburn.
- **Long sleeved top:** arms need to be covered to give protection.
- **Fleece or tracksuit top.**
- Please name all clothes, especially waterproofs, as these all look very similar.

Anything else...

Mrs Pierron will be teaching the class on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Mrs Anstee will take over the reins on Wednesday afternoons, Thursdays and Fridays. The children will be supported in class by Miss Scott.

Whole class recorder lessons provided by West Sussex Music will commence on Tuesday 17th September up until Christmas.



As mentioned in the information letter from Mr Williams, you are able to contact us using the following email addresses. We will respond as soon as possible within our working hours.

kpierron@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

janstee@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

Please feel free to come and see us if you wish to discuss anything: your comments and support are greatly appreciated. We're sure this term will be both an exciting and enjoyable one for all of us.

Best wishes,

Mrs Pierron, Mrs Anstee and Miss Scott

Please scroll down for this term's curriculum overview grid.



Beech Class - Learning Overview – Autumn 2024

**Topics:
Tools for Change
Bending and Meandering**

English	Maths	Science	Computing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organise paragraphs around a theme. ● Understand how to use a dictionary effectively. ● Write simple sentences from memory. ● Increase legibility, consistency and quality of handwriting. ● Plan writing by discussing and recording ideas. ● Use a range of precise adjectives. ● Use a wider range of conjunctions. ● Use bullet points for simple lists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Place Value including partitioning, rounding, number lines, comparing and ordering numbers ● Thousands, hundreds, tens and ones ● Addition and Subtraction ● Multiplication and division ● Times Tables 	<p>Rocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compare and group rocks according to appearance and physical properties. ● Know how soil is made and how fossils are formed. ● Know the differences between sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks <p>Sound:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Know that sounds are made from vibrations. ● Know how sound travels from a source to our ears. ● Know the correlation between pitch and the object creating the sound. ● Know the correlation between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations. ● Know what happens to a sound as it travels away from its source. 	<p>Computing systems and networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How does a digital device work? ● What parts make up a digital device? ● How do digital devices help us? ● How am I connected? ● How are computers connected? ● What does our school network look like?

History	Geography	RE	PSHCE
<p>Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To place the Stone Age on a timeline. • To know the key changes between the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. • To know how the introduction of farming changed people's lives. • To know what a Hunter-Gatherer is. 	<p>Rivers - What is the journey of a river?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water cycle is the way in which water moves around the Earth. It never stops. • Rivers have many uses around the world, including cooking, cleaning, growing crops, transport and creating power. • A river has three main stages: upper course, middle course and lower course. • Flooding is caused by poor drainage around or close to a river. 	<p>People of God: What is it like to follow God?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make links between the story of Noah and the idea of covenant • Make links between promises in the story of Noah and promises that Christians make at a wedding ceremony. • Make links between the story of Noah and how we live in school and the wider world. 	<p>Families and relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship issues, bullying • Stereotyping • Physical and emotional boundaries <p>Health and wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy eating • Identifying strengths • Celebrating mistakes • Develop a growth mindset • Consider how we can increase our happiness
Art & DT	Music & Drama	Languages	PE
<p>Art:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a range of pencils to create different effects. • Understanding/recapping primary and secondary colours. • Explore the work of Wassily Kandinsky. • Create a piece of art inspired by Kandinsky. <p>DT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How mechanical systems such as levers and linkages create movement. • How to cut and fold card to create pop ups. • How to choose materials to create a finished project; aesthetics and functionality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning the recorder with West Sussex Music • begin to develop an appreciation and understanding of a wide range of recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians 	<p>Phonics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall phonemes 'CH' 'OU' 'ON' 'OI' • Recall phonemes 'I', 'IN', 'IQUE' and 'ILLE' <p>Musical Instruments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall 10 instruments with the correct article/determiner. • Understand the article/determiner "the" has a plural form in French. • Say a simple sentence using "je joue.." <p>Seasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall the seasons in French. • Say a short phrase for each season in French. • Say which season is their favourite. • Begin to use "et" as a conjunction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use running, jumping, throwing and catching in isolation and in combination. • Develop an understanding of how to improve in different physical activities and sports and learn how to evaluate and recognise their own success. • Take part in outdoor and adventurous activity challenges both individually and within a team.